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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OCON, WFC
SUBJECT: 4TH SESSION OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (WFC)

1. MARCH 31 MEETING OF ROME REPS TO WFC LARGELY CONFINED TO REVIEW OF WFC BUREAU MARCH 28-29 MEETING. IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT BUREAU HAD DECIDED THAT PREPCOM WOULD BE HELD IN MEXICO JUNE 5 TO 7. ALSO ANNOUNCED WAS SCHEDULE OF FUTURE BUREAU MEETINGS, MAY 3 IN ROME AND JUNE 2 IN MEXICO.

2. NEW DRAFT AGENDA WAS CIRCULATED AT THE MEETING AND IS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE 1. OPENING OF SESSION
2. ELECTIONS TO REPLACE TWO VICE-PRESIDENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 14 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS
4. ASSESSMENT OF THE WORLD FOOD SITUATION AND OUTLOOK
5. FOLLOW-UP ACTION TO RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, INCLUDING SPECIAL REFERENCE TO:
A) AGRARIAN REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
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B) INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
C) REPORT ON THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON FOOD PRODUCTION AND INVESTMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (CGFPI), ESTABLISHED BY WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE RESOLUTION XXII.
6. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE "MANILA COMMUNIQUE OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL: A PROGRAMME OF ACTION TO ERADICATE HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION" WITH SPECIAL CONSIDERATION OF SPECIFIC MEASURES

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TO PROMOTE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS ON FOOD PRODUCTION, INCLUDING THE FLOW OF RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL INPUTS, IMPROVING HUMAN NUTRITION, FOOD SECURITY, FOOD AID AND FOOD TRADE.
7. PRIORITIES FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION AT FUTURE SESSIONS
8. REPORT OF THE COUNCIL TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY. END QUOTE.

3. THE WFC SECRETARIAT STATED THAT PRINCIPAL ITEMS IN THE AGENDA WERE ITEMS 4, 5 AND 6. 4 AND 5 WERE BASICALLY INFORMATIONAL.

4. AFTER MUCH DISCUSSION THERE SEEMED TO EMERGE A GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THE FOCUS OF THE MEETING SHOULD BE ON PRODUCTION AND NUTRITION, THOUGH SEVERAL DELEGATES, PRINCIPALLY CUBA, FELT LESS EMPHASIS SHOULD BE PUT ON NUTRITION. SEVERAL DELEGATES STRESSED NEED FOR THE COUNCIL TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS WITH REGARD TO THE 500,000 TON EMERGENCY RESERVE, THE FOOD AID CONFERENCE ADND THE FOOD RESERVE, IN VIEW OF THE LACK OF PROGRESS IN THE RECENTLY SUSPENDED GRAINS NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA.

5. THE SECRETARIAT ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD DRAFT THE DOCUMENTATION FOR ALL ITEMS EXCEPT INPUTS BY APRIL 7.

6. IT WAS ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE ROME REPS WOULD BE HELD MAY 5 AND THAT PRESIDENT TANCO WOULD CHAIR THE MEETING. THIS WOULD ALLOW APPROXIMATELY A MONTH FOR MEMBER COUNTRIES AND OBSERVERS TO STUDY THE DOCUMENTS
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IN ORDER TO GIVE PRELIMINARY VIEWS. THE WFC SECRETARIAT PLANS EXTENSIVE BI-LATERAL CONSULTATIONS WITH MEMBER COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES BETWEEN NOW AND THE PREPCOM IN ORDER TO CRYSTALIZE VIEWS OF MEMBER GOVERNMENTS CONCERNING THE SECRETARIAT'S SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE DRAFT DOCUMENTS.

7. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION HARRY WALTERS INDICATED HE PROBABLY WILL BE IN WASHINGTON FOR BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS THE WEEK OF APRIL 17 RATHER THAN THE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED WEEK OF APRIL 10.
GARDNER

NNN

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